

PRESS RELEASE

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CHATHAM AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES AFFORDABLE ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

The **Chatham Affordable Housing Committee** is pleased to announce a new Affordable Accessory Dwelling Unit (AADU) Technical Assistance Grant Program for **Chatham** property owners. The Town of **Chatham**, (the Town), voted at the May 12, 2008 Town Meeting to provide a Technical Assistance Grant Program to **Chatham** homeowners for the purpose of creating affordable accessory rental units. Sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) from the Community Preservation Act Funds has been allocated to provide Technical Assistance Grants.

The purpose of the Technical Assistance Grant program is to increase the availability of affordable year round housing NOW for people who need it by encouraging landlords to convert part of their property to an affordable unit". The Town of **Chatham's** affordable accessory housing bylaw is the vehicle to create these types of units. This new Technical Assistance Grant program is an exciting addition to help property owners interested in creating affordable accessory units.

Through the provision of Technical Assistance Grants, the program intends to provide financial assistance to those property owners who need to address health and/or safety repairs in order to obtain ZBA/Special Permit approval. Funds from the Technical Assistance Grant Program can be used to bring rental units up to current building, health, and safety codes. Examples of uses include, but are not limited to, updating wiring and/or plumbing, new roofs, Title V issues, etc.

The Affordable Housing Committee hopes people will come forward as this is a wonderful way to increase the stock of affordable rental housing in **Chatham** and provide homeowners with a little extra income". In addition, the affordable housing bylaw allows rental apartments, where not otherwise allowed by zoning regulations as long as there is enough septic capacity for the number of bedrooms.

Technical Assistance Grant Program applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

There will be two informational sessions held at the Chatham Community Center on March 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on April 7 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For more information and an application package please call the **Chatham Principal Planner** at **508-945-5168**.